

CURABILITY
OF
CONSUMPTION,
WITH CASES
AND OBSERVATIONS,

BY
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LATE ARMY STAFF.

[Price Sixpence.]

PREFACE.

These pages are intended for popular use ; among them will be found a few remarks expressing the author's views of Consumption and his experience of the CURABILITY of it. It is written in such a way that all may understand the nature and character of the complaint, combatted in its hitherto fatal stages, and the success attending the treatment : in urging a new course of procedure, he trusts that equally fortunate results will follow its application wherever used.

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CONSUMPTION.

Among the many calamities that afflict our race, none entails so fearful an amount of sacrifice as consumption. The reports of mortality from this disease alone in our kingdom, average about 70,000 per annum ; such are the facts elicited regarding its destructiveness. Great as may be the alarm and terror created by pestilential visitations, they sacrifice but few, compared to this complaint, the one strikes our senses, for we see the strong and healthy cut off at once, almost without a warning, and therefore our sympathies are suddenly aroused, the communities are startled by the intelligence of the approaching scourge, they watch its progress, mark its effects, and count its victims, and when the fatal lists are scored, herald the amount with its attendant circumstances. Not so with Consumption,

its dire effects are never heard of among the busy throng in broadway thoroughfares of life, it steals upon the life of man, stamping his very front and mien with the impress of its pale grim visage. It wends its way in saurian fashion, serpentine in its course, moves silent and only becomes noticed in the light of day, when the dark canopy that conceals its victim is borne on friendly aids, amid the din of worldly bustle. The scene is past, and with its momentary saddened thoughts, old ones are resumed, until some kind friend or dear loved heart, is seen to wax pale and waste away, or mayhap until the shock comes somewhat home, striking the once stalwart manly form, into the shade of what it once had been.

So hopeless and altogether dreary has been the prospect of relief in these cases, that medical men have been unable to offer any honest consolation with a view to succour or amendment, for so surely was the slightest touch of its visitation made manifest, so surely and irrevocably was the sufferer doomed to incurability, both by medical attendant and friend ; there was in their minds no chance of recovery, for who could be so rash as to breathe a

possibility of cure, when the faculty for centuries up to the present time, had declared the attempt an impossibility, as the disease was "UTTERLY INCURABLE AND NEVER TO BE CURED."

These are hard words and would strike terror into the heart of many a sanguine physician, perhaps deter him from making an effort to effect relief, for fear of bringing on his own devoted head, the con-dign indignation of his seniors in the profession, for daring to entertain opinions contrary to their superior (quasi) judgement and experience.

"Never" is a long word, and requires most cautious use in these days of skill and enterprise, when shortly the world will be encircled with a thought that will traverse from the mind of one man to the other, from almost pole to pole, and it may be only after the faint type of more transcendant means between the petty compass of man's poor mind and the impress of the Eternal, who knows? wherefore then shall "NEVER" prevail.

It has been the privilege of chemistry to interpret many of the once hidden mysteries of nature's laws and works, and as science and arts increase, so un-

doubtedly will many as yet latent realities be unfolded from their obscurity.

The book of nature will from time to time expand, and teach us how little we have learnt and what a store remains ; therefore it ill becomes a liberal science to assume a dogmatic dicta, and stigmatise as heretic all else because perfection is presumed. Numerous dogmas, conceived as axioms in medicine of even recent date, are fast exploding now.

Far more cheering are the prospects of the present generation—Science, Art, and Knowledge, daily elicit fresh truths, “tempora mutantur,” and with them even medicine itself begins to assume a rationality which has hitherto been unknown, the peculiar “modus operandi,” as yet only just unveiling, has been, and unfortunately still is founded too much on a principle of experiment which after all resolves itself into sheer empiricism, say what the medical world will, they cannot repudiate the fact that all treatment as yet is only founded on this principle : for example somebody tried this remedy or that, and found it useful, therefore it is recommended, not from any principle of action or affinity in

the system, but by bare expediency. Medicine as thus practised bears little difference between authodoxy and empiricism, as both result from the schools of experience, apart from any rational mode of procedure in the investigation of the cause of disease and its antagonistic influences.

It is owing to long experience, practical investigations, and pathological deductions, that the author has been enabled to arrive at such a theory of disease, especially the one under consideration, Consumption, as has enabled him to adopt such a line of procedure, both in the application of remedies and hygeine, as to produce the most decisive effects in the cure of this disease.

Without discussing the various theories of the origin and cause of it, the author will save much trouble by simply explaining in a popular manner his views, in order that they may be understood. He conceives then that there are THREE causes of origin to which this disease is to be ascribed or attributable, viz :—

1st.—To accidental, as arising from cold or damp.

2nd.—Mal-assimilation of the digesta.

3rd.—A complicated state of the system, arising from inanition, mechanical causes, supposed hereditary condition, and lastly long depressing illnesses and mental anxiety.

1ST. CAUSE.

ACCIDENTAL, AS ARISING FROM COLD OR WET.

This cause is a very common one and probably more destructive than any other, yet nevertheless most easily controlled in its first and second stages, and generally in the third or last.

The natural condition of the body in health depends on a vigorous circulation in the integuments, with a corresponding amount of secretion and excretion, be it either of moisture or of gaseous exhalation, and not only is this action of the skin necessary for health but it also must be reciprocated in by a corresponding one of the lungs ; so long as the proper balance, is supported between these two structures, so long will the being be free from disease, and from this source, particularly when it arises from disturbance created by cold, wet, or imperfect clothing, for if the exhalations are checked on the surface an increased inordinate duty is

required to be exercised by the lungs, to get rid of that portion of effete due to the action of the external surface, through what are understood as the pores of the skin, in plainer language, the circulation of the skin is violently forced into the lungs, they cannot get rid of the superfluous blood in them, cough is set up as a natural means to endeavour to return it to the skin, a continual conflict takes place between both these textures, till either the lungs become extensively impaired, or a recovery takes place; Experience too unhappily discloses on which side the contest is maintained, that the lung unable to relieve itself or get relief, is gradually broken down, the skin retaining its obstinate condition exhales little of its effete properties, and the consequence is that the lung being surcharged, it is obliged to retain a great portion of its increased accumulations which are chiefly carbon, these are exhibited in the form of increased expectoration, blood, pus, and finally tubercle: that this is a sound rational view of the primary cause of accidental phthisis cannot be disputed, and reduces the disease to one of mechanical aberration and chemical displacement, leaving it comparatively an easy mat-

ter of medical intervention to effect a re-adjustment of the erring disturbances. The treatment in this instance will resolve itself into—

1st. —Restoring the circulation of the skin, and exciting a healthy action of the pores by using such means as will best relieve their tonic spasm.

2nd.—By relieving the lung of its undue proportion of blood and increased respiratory efforts, by withdrawing to other parts the hyper-secretions, reducing those of the glands of lung, allaying irritation, and chemically breaking down by solvent process any formation of tubercle.

2ND. OR MAL-ASSIMILATING SPECIES.

The first process will be to discover wherein this depends, the mal-assimilation may arise from imperfect respiration, thereby depriving the blood and nerves of their due share of gaseous composite, especially oxygen, or from a deficiency of the gaseous composites eliminated from the food during diges-

tion in the stomach. In order to rectify this deficiency, it will be necessary to observe the peculiarity of diet habitually used, and if at fault to vary it to a more substantive kind, on the contrary should the defect arise from defective respiration, it will be necessary to introduce into the system such medicamenta as most readily respond to the required gaseous composita, so that when oxygen may be disproportionate in quantity it may be administered internally, the same with nitrogen, hydrogen, &c. in order that the system itself may absorb in just proportions that which is requisite.

THE 3RD. OR LAST FORM OF CONSUMPTION, HAVING A VARIETY OF CAUSES, ARISING FROM INANITION, MECHANICAL CAUSES, HEREDITARY CONDITION, DISTRESSING AFFECTIONS, &c.

To enter minutely into these incitors to phthisis will not be requisite here, having on enquiry ascertained the positive seat or primary source of its developement, our path is very clear, for instance, when an absence of food, warmth, and rest, induct the disturbance, nothing can be more clear than that a return to health can only be expected

by employing restoratives in the shape of diet, while the “*Ars Medicamenta*,” is brought into action to reduce those accompaniments in association with all diseases accruing from inanition, I mean tubercular disease ; when tubercle is formed chemical aid is the only means by which a solvent process can be effected to reduce the carbonaceous deposit to its elementary constituents, and thus get rid of it from the system in a gaseous form, or as it frequently happens, act upon it in such a manner as eventually to cause its mechanical rejection.

It is supposed that much of the disease is engendered by descent ; of that some doubt exists in the author’s mind ; but of this he is confident, that under ordinary circumstances he sees no reason to doubt the curability of it, even should it emanate from the supposition of predisposition ; as yet one of the worst cases under treatment would have been included in this category.

Hitherto experience has failed in the cure of phthisis ; there has been unfortunately too disponding a tone of mind evinced towards this complaint ; the disease had been pronounced by the first men of eminence “utterly incurable,” it was therefore

hopeless to expect that mediocrity could or would effect anything, and strange as it may appear, society has been so long accustomed to receive the mistaken assumptions of misguided (quasi) authority that it has been long content in paying its fee to receive the deliberate judgement passed upon the victim, of a banishment to Madeira, Italy, or Spain, &c. until the natural term of life should expire : such has been and still is the decree of science—miserable delusions on all sides—as if a change of air could by any possibility of itself fix one day's addenda to life, on the contrary, the author cannot too earnestly direct the public to avoid the mild and genial air of continental resorts, for they are in very truth only fertile of causes tenfold aggravating to this disease, and for this reason I have endeavoured superficially to explain how that one grand feature of phthisis is dependent on gaseous aberrations, which chiefly arise from a deficiency of one quality over another ; now all persons are universally conversant that oxygen forms a prime feature in the condition of life, as most necessary in vitalizing the being ; it is also known that oxygen is a great supporter of combustion, and that when-

ever heat is obtained it is at the expence of oxygen, ergo, a warm climate or place, as a sequitur, must be destructive, for as heat must deprive the air of its oxygen so must in like proportion the consumptive being be deprived of what it wants rather in excess; for this same reason will all remedia affecting the inhalation of normal properties of atmosphere, become baneful, consequently the use of a respirator for consumption is to be deprecated.

The atmosphere so conducive to the invalid is one that will enable him to breathe COLD AIR, first as possessing most oxygen, second as a means of expelling the excess of blood in the weak lung to the surface, by exciting the circulation in the capillaries of integuments, aided by warmth, clothing, baths, &c. in this way we act on principle, and the force of it is easily discerned by the most ordinary comprehension—thus for instance, a person having a bleeding hand would be thought insane if hot water applications were used by him to check the flow of blood, he would at once, on the contrary, employ cold, common sense would tell him that; let the reader ask where the difference then, between a bleeding hand and lung? the treatment in

both instances must be the same, with this difference only, that there is another mode of application, the one situ being reachable, the other not so; therefore it is necessary to vary the application without altering the principle: as one means of effecting this object, the author invented an ATMOSPHERIC WAISTCOAT, which he patented, but like others who invent, lost by his enterprise, however the same can be had by applying at the Oriental Company's Waterproof Establishment, 48, Picadilly, London; the apparatus was called a "Thermostathorax" which signifies "I retain the heat to the chest" with the use of the Thermoster an invalid can with the greatest facility imbibe the cold air with benefit and delight; the chest being encased in a shield of warm air receives no violence from a sudden blast or change of temperature; the invention acts as an interpositum between the external cold air surrounding the body and the surface of the warm chest.

It will be understood by my readers, that the principles of action in combating consumption are these—to correct any aberrations of circulation and nervous influence, and to prevent any formation of tubercular deposition, and the reduction of that

already formed, that this is the true method, both scientific and practical is clear, Ordinary treatment has been conducted on very uncertain principles, and the result has exhibited itself in the lists of mortality which are proofs thereof.

It is the happiness of the author to have saved many from the fatal effects of this disease, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that the same measures which have attended his previous successes, are just as likely to be of equal value in future ; that he has effectually proved that consumption is curable he has only to give a few examples of cases, illustrating his assumption, leaving the reader to form his own conclusions thereon.

. Having studied the disease for many years in different climates where the circumstances of service threw him, as in India, China, Africa, &c. he is able to form some conclusion as to the influence of climate in disease, especially what is called tropical disease, and particularly phthisis ; it has been observed by him that in no country does the disease run to so rapid a termination as in the torrid zone, and the cause of this has been assigned. Among many favored spots, BRIGHTON, in the author's

opinion, ranks perhaps the highest, wherefore he conceives it best adapted to the requirements of the patient and his comforts, for while it possesses an invigorating atmosphere it obtains a medium one at all times.

Extracts of Cases successfully treated for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c.

CASE I.

M. B———— a married lady, stated for some years to have been in consumption, was subject to spitting of blood in the year 1854, accompanied by loss of flesh, difficulty of breathing, occasional cold sweats at night, and debility ; on examination, January 1856, I found the cough troublesome, painful, and the breathing difficult, the pulse was quick and irritable, skin hot and dry, flushings of hands, feet, and face, experienced, the hair was brushed out of the head in quantities, the nails were long and grew fast, and the appetite was indifferent, the expectoration was always voided with blood, large quantities of purulent matter accompanying the sputa, together with tubercle as hard as the rind of cheese, and at times small pearly particles the size of millet seeds slipped up from the lung into the mouth, numbering 5 or 6 at a time ; on applying the

Stethoscope there existed absence of respiratory murmur under both clavicles, a loud râle was heard in the left lung and cavernous respiration was distinctly audible about the middle of the lobe.

The treatment consisted of—

Perfect repose, with warmth of body, cool air to the lungs, highly nutritious diet with occasional stimulus; diet to consist of eggs, milk, and beef soup.

Medical remedies :—anodyne sedatives, and chemical solvents, with latterly stimulants.

Second Week.—The hæmoptysis or spitting of blood had ceased, the cough was greatly relieved, and fast subsiding, the pains in the chest only occasional, the breathing was much better, and the patient had been out of doors.

Third Week.—No night cold sweats, the cough only occasional, absence of pain in the chest, expectoration clearer, with a trace of pus only now and then, no hæmoptysis or spitting of blood, skin warm and moist, respiration free, and neither râle or cavernous sound to be heard, there is roughness of the bronchi on the left side, pulse steady about 80, and fuller, strength and flesh increasing.

Fourth Week.—No pain or difficulty of breathing, cough absent except occasionally, several tubercles have been passed of a glistening pearly character, no

hæmoptysis, auscultatory sounds very satisfactory, in fact a state of recovery almost complete.

Fifth Week—The lungs have regained their healthy state, the patient complained neither of pain in the chest, cough, or other distress, had recovered a great deal of flesh, and was able to walk about with usual ability.

Sixth Week—Is considered perfectly restored to health, during the last two weeks only occasional remedies have been employed.

This case is a good example of the success of treatment inasmuch as two of this lady's family died of consumption many years since, and the disease was considered to be hereditary, she was perfectly free from any pulmonary affection at a very recent date.

CASE II.

C. P. aged 21, a fair haired young man of very sanguinous temperament, had been for some time in a very delicate state, was accustomed to spit up blood frequently throughout the day, had suffered from troublesome cough, was losing flesh and strength very rapidly, and had considerable pain in the chest with difficulty of breathing.

On examination, I found that a quantity of bloody and purulent sputa was coughed up of most offensive

odor, the greater part sinking in water, and in quantity about ten ounces daily, of which four ounces may be said to be blood, the lungs were found to be much affected, there were râles under both clavicles, with dullness on percussion, the apices of lungs afforded no respiratory murmur. Bronchophany and pectoriloquy heard in both lungs, pulse quick, skin hot and dry, cold sweats at night with loss of sleep, general restlessness; that there was extensive disorganization of the lungs was very patent.

1st Week.—The irritable state of cough much lessened, sputa still offensive and abundant, but not containing so much blood, sleep enjoyed and more refreshing, the *night cold* sweats, are exchanged for warm ones.

2nd Week.—The spitting of blood has nearly ceased, only a slight cough exists, the difficulty of breathing is not complained of, the sputa more moderate in quantity, the greater part now floating in water, the respiratory sounds are more healthy, and the râles are absent, only a slight cavernous sound being discovered.

3rd Week.—Is able to walk about during the greater part of the day, scarcely coughs at all, sputa floats in water, is opaque, and in quantity about an ounce a day, sound of chest nearly removed, a deep

breath can be taken with facility, rapid recovery is taking place, strength and flesh increasing.

4th Week.—Gradually improved.

5th Week.—Quite free from complaint.

6th Week.—The lungs are capable of taking a deep inspiration, no unnatural sounds are heard, the sounds of respiration being all healthy, sputa natural, no cough or hæmoptysis, complexion healthy, in fact the patient had recovered his ordinary strength and robustness, and was quite well.

CASE III.

J. M'S. caught cold about Christmas, 1854, after which he suffered from severe cough and pain in his chest, nothing was effected for him till about January, and at the time I saw him he was suffering from great pain in his chest, constant cough, which was increased by speaking, loss of voice to a great extent, extreme emaciation, debility in proportion, cold night sweats, pulse 100, small and feeble, skin, hot and dry, ansculatory sounds, cavernous respiration, pectoriloquy, râles sibilant and mucous, in different parts of the lung, dullness on percussion at apices of lung, sputa purulent and bloody, tubercle being thrown up with it in large quantities daily, cadaverous odor of body, altogether a most unpromising case.

1st Week.—Cough much relieved, as also the pain in the chest, breathing more free and easy ; sputa contains less hæmoptysis ; *cold* sweats exchanged for *warm* ones and a moist state of the skin has taken place.

2nd Week.—Greatly improving, no cold sweats, cough decreasing, breathing freer, sputa more opaque, and chiefly floats in water, pulse averaging '90, voice stronger, appetite improving.

3rd, 4th, and 5th Weeks.—A gradual improvement supervened from week to week ; all the various complaints more or less subsided.

6th Week.—The lungs had recovered their natural condition ; all râles had ceased, or other morbid sounds ; the strength was good ; but it would take some time to restore his former bulk, as much loss had accrued ; he felt himself quite well, and could draw a deep inspiration with ease, and was able to run up hill with facility for a little distance.

This case was a very happy one, for at first no prospect could be entertained of his recovery : it forms the groundwork of much hope for the future.

CASE IV.

Mrs. H. the mother of a family, had for years been subject to Asthma of a very distressing kind ; she would sit up for whole nights trying to breathe, and

had never been able to obtain any relief; during one of these distressing attacks, I saw her and recommended her to follow my directions, these were acted on, and the result ended in rapid recovery: the means consisted of sedatives and hot applications to the chest, with thermal aids.

CASE V.

C. R. a delicate person, had been for some years subject to violent attacks of Asthma, he was more like a man of 70 years than of 35, his age: during the winter of 1854 I saw him, and commenced to put him under the requisite treatment; soon after he was able to enjoy freedom in breathing, and immunity to cold air, although the cold was very intense; by the use of a Thermoster and internal remedia, he could walk about in comfort, he rapidly recovered his former health, and when last seen was free from the disease.

CASE VI.

J. B. an active man, was the subject of violent attacks of Bronchitis, which brought on great expectoration, debility and pain in the chest, and of course ended in long confinement and distress; but adopting the Thermoster and following the prescribed remedia, he rapidly recovered and became perfectly free from further attacks.

In this case the affection was often accompanied with spitting of blood, but all further anxiety has long since ceased, as the treatment was so completely effective.

PETER M. æt. 23, came under my notice after four months of great suffering from Rheumatism, in conjunction with chest-affection; he had severe cough, great pains in his loins, and both sides, there was always a feeling of oppression at the chest, with shortness of breath, the nights were passed in suffering, from distress of cough and uneasiness of the whole body, the pulse was exceedingly small, skin dry and cold to the touch, voice feeble, husky, and whining, the body reduced to a perfect skeleton. Percussion elicited dullness over the upper portions of chest, on applying the ear, loud mucous râles in both sides were detected, with pectoriloquy, which were positive signs of an excavated lung, the perspirations were exceedingly copious and cold, the respirations hurried and much aggravated by frequent palpitations of the heart, the expectoration copious, bloody, and full of pus, tuberculous matter of a fatty nature being frequently thrown off, the odor from the whole body was like mouldy earth; such was the condition of the patient, reduced on the one hand to the verge of exhaustion,

by sheer suffering, broken down on by a series of complications, arising from Rheumatism, in conjunction with other disease: no wonder that a climax to all should terminate in Consumption; bad as his tenure of life seemed to be, indeed actually hopeless, I still nevertheless felt some satisfaction in believing that the same means that had hitherto succeeded in saving so many lives, would at least in this case be the means of greatly alleviating his misery, and tend to mitigate the physical distress contingent on a position, which inclined to the grave: I proceeded in my treatment first to relieve his pain, by anodynes and sudorifics of such a nature as would act promptly; I next endeavoured to alter the secretions, *by acting on their sources*, arresting one set while others were excited; attended to the nutritive function, both of respiration and imbibition, thereby restoring the assimilating process to a healthy or normal state; continuing my treatment I then interposed chemical action to break down the tubercular formations, not long after he was under the influence of this system a very great change took place; he first began to obtain relief from pains in his limbs, next the breathing became easier, which was followed by loss of pains in the chest, the cold perspirations were exchanged for warm, the dry skin became moist, the bloody

expectoration was changed to a white frothy one, the appetite increased rapidly, and the nights were passed in comfort, a gradual and progressive change took place from the first moment, and at the end of six weeks, he had so far recovered, that the cough was absent, no tubercle, blood, or pus was seen, he was able to be out all day, walking about, the spirits were good, his sleep refreshing, both strength and flesh returning, he enjoyed at this period good health, but the former robust condition was slowly advancing; percussion was nearly natural, there was *absence totally* of pectoriloquy; nor was a râle to be heard, and the healthy sounds of respiration restored, perfect ease in breathing ensuing.

It will be very apparent in this case that consumption depended on the mischief arising from the consequences of two other diseases, so that the three diseases were as two to one against a recovery in ordinary affections; but in a hitherto presumed fatal disorder, like consumption, the anticipation of a recovery in this instance most remote and scarcely possible; by perseverance and careful attendance united with the “ars medicinæ” a successful result followed, and when the patient was seen some time subsequently, he smilingly asserted “he was as well as ever.”

There was a peculiarity in this case, which from

the foetid odor of the sputa, was in itself an evidence of serious disease, from which however he rapidly recovered; a few tubercles were mixed occasionally with the expectoration *as* in Case No. 1; the treatment here consisted of similar remedia to the former one, only more or less active and occasionally varied.

CASE VII.

ANNE P. a fine young woman, after much fatigue brought on by nursing an infant during the measles and whooping cough, became the subject of severe cough in 1853, which brought on at length shortness of breath, pain in the side, palpitations, sudden giddiness, with faintness, at length terminating in severe hæmorrhage from the lungs, on applying the stethoscope, respiration in the upper portions of the lungs was inaudible, a deep breath could not be drawn, and it was impossible to say to what extent the lungs were affected, but that they were seriously impaired could not be doubted, especially as abundant mucous was thrown up loaded with scarlet or arterial blood, and the bronchi were full of it; the febrile symptoms were very high and the system greatly disturbed, both strength and flesh had lately been fast failing, and the spirits much depressed. In a few days she recovered under treatment and resumed her former health.

Instead of at once pursuing what is termed an antiphlogistic treatment, that is, resorting to bleeding from the arm largely, also from the chest by leeches, using blisters, cupping, tartar emetic, internally as well as externally, calomelizing the patient and reducing her to a minimum or starving point, I simply increased the integumentary action by clothing, allayed nervous irritation, and arrested the circulation by sedatives, checked hæmorrhage thereby, and suppressed the hearts action, next relieved the secretion of mucous by assisting in its rejection, while I arrested those causes which hastened its formation ; in this way I relieved the lungs, favored a return to healthy circulation of the blood, without reducing the system by draining it of its necessary quantity, spared my patient all the horrors of a blister, tartar emetic, calomel, (a practice understood by what is termed bringing counter irritation into play) and consequently saved her from both pain and increase of weakness, which enabled her the better to resist those causes inducing disease, so that when the time arrived for nature's own efforts to induce recovery, she was well backed up, as the powers of life had not been sapped, first by withdraw-

ing the life itself, (blood,) secondly by reducing the nervous power by irritating and annoying it, and consequently impairing its vigor ; having advanced thus much, I may, not inappropriately, introduce my own ideas respecting this favorite system of counter irritation, which resolves itself into this,—that as natural causes have created a disturbance in the human body, as exhibited by what is termed disease, so the faculty in their wisdom attempt to outdo her, in doubling her efforts, by creating artificially a second disturbance, and further assist by applying torture externally, in the philosophical form of blisters, hot irons, moxas, cupping glasses, irritating ointments, and liniments, while INTERNALLY no end of use is made of calomel, (a radical destroyer of the blood by chemically breaking it down,) brisk purges, tartar emetic, (a mineral corrosive,) &c., each and all of them irritants or blisters, realizing the same amount of devastation as either of the external applications.

The rational of this very irrational procedure being founded on the questionable doctrine that to remove one disease it is necessary to create another, so as to draw the original to a more healthy part. By way of establishing the soundness of such an argument, I would

suggest that the next time the faculty go to bed, and wish to extinguish the candle, that they had better light both ends of their dip, in order to burn the extremes at once, and let them not be astonished at finding that the candle verily expires not, but continues to burn the brighter, ceasing only to give light when it has consumed itself; the parallel may possibly teach, that to burn a candle at both extremities is not likely to extinguish it any more than establishing a fresh raw in one place is likely to succeed in withdrawing another from its old ground; it would be a far more rational method of treatment in the cure of a headache to borrow the pedagogues wand and inflict a counter irritation at the opposite pole, than continue to pursue, so misjudged and unscientific a custom as the one in vogue, contrary to every mechanical principle or *exempla naturæ*.

Unfortunately for the obscurity that has so long enshrouded medicine, this mistake would have long since been rejected and possibly have spared much misery; it is a system however which possesses many votaries, and I fear Legion is their name.

Having much reason from a long course of unprecedented successes to conclude that among other diseases the treatment of *Consumption* is as rapidly under subjugation as any other, he fears it has too long been permitted to remain as it were in abeyance, that all attempts

to interfere in its progress have rested, somewhat on sufferance, for the very idea of consumption being curable, is not even tolerated excepting by a few enlightened men, whose principles appear to be guided within very narrow compasses, the one attaching vital importance to medical inhalation alone ; the other to mechanical expiration ; each forgetful, to my comprehension, of the inductive causes of this disease, and its antagonistic remedies. To subdue pulmonary affections, many circumstances are to be attended to, but as I have said before, the treatment essentially consists of three peculiarities,

1st THE SEDATIVE.

2nd THE HYGEINIC.

3rd THE CHEMICAL.

Attention to these facts has enabled the author to overcome by pursuing a systematic proceeding, many a difficult task ; when he entered the profession more than *twenty years* since, he was as a matter of fact, taught that the disease was incurable by the schools of his day ; since then a change has come over them, pathology having unfolded with the aid of science in mechanical art, an Eye, (the microscope,) large enough to explore a little closer the intricacies of nature ; fresh fields are opened out, and probably before long, it will be discerned, that disease after all is much more easily controlled by

simple means than present art would or could conceive possible. Before that time arrives the physician will have to study or at least bear in mind the common action of mechanics and their evolutions. When they are better understood, a closer comprehension of the human machinery may be arrived at, how it happens that atmospheric agency possesses the means of vitalizing and de-vitalizing the nervous centres, that these again, impel muscular action and function, how that they again excite chemical action, both mechanical and positive, and lastly how that all these acting in *harmonious proportion*, sustain a *living being*.

It has been estimated that the air cells of the lungs present, when spread out, a surface of about 400 square feet, from which a quantity of carbonic acid gas is escaping, calculated at about 6 per cent of the air expired, and experiments have proved that this quantity varies greatly according to the disease present, (alias disturbance,) from the skin also is discharged a very large quantity of carbon every 24 hours. Hence are there not by these two circumstances alone, ample data to ground a rational system of medicine? That Consumption is due to the interference of these causes more or less is clear, hence to attempt to arrest it on other than the chemico-medical process is futile. Indigestion or mal-assimilation of the food is one cause of the de-

velopement of the disease, and yet a mystery as to how? Nothing more simple. To be understood it will be necessary first to explain how it is that the food is digested, to wit, we are all told that it is reduced to chyle and chyme and then taken up, true, but the fact of these nutritious particles of food being reduced to primary elements or Gaseous constituents, is overlooked; it is in this way that a disproportionate gaseous composite is absorbed into the system, producing disturbances proportionately, which result in the generation of different formations, hence we have tubercle, which is mostly an excess of carbon, as in consumption, I may add excess of phosphate, and their absence in the same manner, in scrophula, also the formation of pus, which will do away at once with the votary of humoral fermentation or the boiling process, by inflammatory advocates, in cases of abscess or fever, Cholera included, which depends expressly on an intensity of these causes. So it is with medicine precisely the same, before absorbed, it is likewise first reduced to its elementary form: a process most natural, and explaining how remedies are introduced and trans-fused throughout the system.

In bringing these pages to a close the author has much satisfaction in assuring those who may feel from personal grounds much interest herein, that the disease hitherto deemed so irremediable no longer continues so.

The author arrogates to himself no greater share of intellectual ability than falls to the privilege of others.

In profitably administering to the relief of suffering men, he owes all the intelligence his feeble Individuality enjoys to the GREAT GIVER OF ALL. It has been his lot to witness much sickness and misery in different climes and spheres, to have escaped many dangers and visitations, and while passing through these as still a student of Nature he should feel ungrateful, if after all, he should fail in rendering his attributes of praise to the Disposer of All; while following his avocations he did not neglect to make use of those faculties and employ the means with which he was endowed, as well as materials abundantly distributed throughout the wide world for the use of man. It is observed that

“Wonderfully and fearfully are we made”

verily it is by a knowledge of the visible among the invisible, that we shall be initiated into THE mystery as to how we are made: Anatomy will teach us the mechanical leverage that sets us in action, but INDUCTION alone will permit us to SEE the Invisible that sets those Levers in motion: when once these revelations are unveiled, and their realities perceived, our vanities will be dispersed like smoke, and our conceits like morning clouds.

In concluding, the author flatters himself, that he has broken some new ground, which may yield sooner or later inestimable advantages ; additional cases of CURES treated might have been furnished, but as those already advanced are fair samples of the desperate character of the disease encountered, he is of opinion that they answer every purpose intended, therefore considers it unnecessary to fatigue the reader by prolixity of detail.

In bidding them adieu, he trusts they will reap some benefit from his remarks and be themselves convinced of the

CURABILITY OF CONSUMPTION.



